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SECRET

## NSC BRIEFING

24 September 1954

## SITUATION IN LAOS

- I. Defense minister killed on 18 Sept; foreign minister reportedly quits on 21st.
  - A. Defense minister had favored deal with Viet Minh-sponsored rebel chief.
  - B. No known connection with killing.
- II. Since early Sept. govt. had sought compromise with rebel leader Souphanouvong, half-brother of premier.
  - A. Govt. hopes to wean rebel chief away from Viet Minh.
  - B. He reportedly willing support govt. if it rids self of Western influence.
  - C. Crown Prince Savang opposes deal with rebel chief.